

IN THE CLAIMS

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method of searching a universe of financial instruments by performing a plurality of n filter passes of said universe with a computer having a processor, a memory, a viewing screen and a computer input device, each said filter pass having a filter condition, said method comprising:

configuring said computer based on a search procedure to perform steps comprising:

(a) ~~presenting~~displaying on said viewing screen a plurality of ~~investment parameters~~filter criteria, at least one of said ~~investment parameters~~filter criteria being selectable by user operation of said computer input device as a proposed filter condition of an ith filter pass, where i is any integer from 1 to n, said proposed filter condition including (a) said at least one filter criteria selected by user operation of said computer input device and (b) all filter conditions for previously performed ones of said filter passes;

(b) in response to a selection of said at least one filter criteria, filtering said universe of financial instruments based on said proposed filter condition to provide a proposed filter output;

~~(bc) presenting~~displaying on said viewing screen a histogram ~~population chart showing the population of said financial instruments based upon said proposed filter output~~, wherein said histogram includes an ordinate and an abscissa, one of which represents a number of financial

instruments and the other of which represents frequency of occurrence
categories of said financial instruments condition of an i^{th} filter pass,
where i is any integer from 1 to n , ~~said proposed filter condition including~~
~~(a) at least one investment parameter selected by user operation of said~~
~~computer input device and (b) all filter conditions for previously performed~~
~~ones of said filter passes, wherein the population chart for the i^{th} filter~~
~~pass differs from the population chart for the $i^{\text{th}} - 1$ filter pass;~~

(d) if said user makes an additional filter criteria selection to
provide a modified proposed filter output, repeating steps (b) and (c)
based on said modified proposed filter output, wherein said histogram is
modified based on said modified proposed filter output;

(ee) executing said i^{th} proposed filter pass based on said proposed
filter output or said modified proposed filter output in response to a run
command generated by user operation of said computer input device; and

(df) repeating steps (a), (b), (c) and (e) until the n^{th} filter pass
has been performed.

19. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 18, ~~wherein said~~
~~population chart is a histogram and said categories are frequency of occurrence~~
~~categories, and wherein steps (a) and (b) concurrently present said plurality of~~
~~investment parameters filter criteria and said histogram on said viewing screen.~~

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein said filter
criteria comprise a plurality of investment parameters and at least one further
comprising:

~~(e) presenting on said viewing screen a parameter limiter, said parameter limiter being user selectable to limit a selected investment parameter in forming said proposed filter condition.~~

21. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein said parameter limiter is one of a plurality of parameter limiters, ~~said plurality of parameter limiters being presented on said viewing screen.~~

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein said plurality of investment parameters and said plurality of parameter limiters are presented in a first area of said screen and said histogram is presented in a second area of said screen.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein said n filter passes are combined with an additional filter pass that has filter conditions selected from a plurality of investment categories for said financial instruments.

24. (Currently amended) A memory media ~~for~~ that is capable of controlling a computer to search a universe of financial instruments by performing n filter passes of said universe, said computer having a viewing screen and a computer input device, each said filter pass employing a filter condition, said memory media comprising:

~~means for~~ a search procedure that is capable of controlling said computer to perform the following steps:

(a) ~~presenting~~ displaying on said viewing screen a plurality of ~~investment parameters~~ filter criteria, said ~~investment parameters~~ filter criteria being selectable by user operation of said computer input device as a proposed filter condition of an i^{th} filter pass, where i is an integer from 1 to n, said proposed filter condition including (i) at least one investment

parameter selected by user operation of said computer input device and
(ii) all filter conditions for previously performed ones of said filter passes;

(b) in response to a selection of said at least one filter criteria,
filtering said universe of financial instruments based on said proposed
filter condition to provide a proposed filter output;

(bc) presenting displaying on said viewing screen a histogram
population chart showing the population of said financial instruments based
upon a said proposed filter output, wherein said histogram includes an
ordinate and an abscissa, one of which represents a number of financial
instruments and the other of which represents frequency of occurrence
categories of said financial instruments condition of an i^{th} filter pass,
where i is an integer from 1 to n , said proposed filter condition including (i)
at least one investment parameter selected by user operation of said
computer input device and (ii) all filter conditions for previously performed
ones of said filter passes, wherein the population chart for the i^{th} filter
pass differs from the population chart for the $i^{\text{th}} - 1$ filter pass;

(d) if said user makes an additional filter criteria selection to
provide a modified proposed filter output, repeating steps (b) and (c)
based on said modified proposed filter output, wherein said histogram is
modified based on said modified proposed filter output;

(ee) executing said i^{th} proposed filter pass based on said proposed
filter output or said modified proposed filter output in response to a run
command generated by user operation of said computer input device; and

(df) repeating steps (ab), (bc), (d) and (ee) to repeat until the nth filter pass has been performed.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A memory media according to claim 25, wherein said filter criteria comprise a plurality of investment parameters and at least one ~~means for controlling causes said computer to perform the following further step:~~

~~(e) presenting on said viewing screen a parameter limiter, said parameter limiter being user selectable to limit a selected investment parameter in forming said proposed filter condition.~~

27. (Currently amended) The memory media according to claim 26, wherein said parameter limiter is one of a plurality of parameter limiters, ~~said plurality of parameter limiters being presented on said viewing screen.~~

28. (Currently amended) The computer media according to claim 27, wherein steps (a) and (e) ~~present said plurality of investment parameters and said plurality of parameter limiters~~ are displayed in a first area of said viewing screen and said histogram is displayed in a second area of said viewing screen.

29. (Original) The computer media according to claim 28, wherein said n filter passes are combined with an additional filter pass that has a filter condition selected from a plurality of investment categories for said financial instruments.

30- 41. (Canceled).

42. (Currently amended) A method of searching a universe of financial instruments with a computer that includes a processor, a memory, a viewing screen and a computer input device, said method comprising:

configuring said computer based on a search procedure to perform steps comprising:

(a) displaying on said viewing screen a plurality of investment parameters;

(ab) presenting in response to a user selecting at least one of said investment parameters, displaying on said viewing screen a histogram including an ordinate and an abscissa, one of which represents a number of said financial instruments and the other of which includes a plurality of display elements that represent different frequency of occurrence groupings of an selected one of said investment parameters, wherein said groupings are frequency of occurrence groupings, wherein each of said display elements has a filter condition associated therewith and an actuator for selecting said filter condition displayed at a location in said histogram;

(bc) identifying for each of said display elements a filter condition for said investment parameter; and in response to a user selecting at least one of said filter conditions by actuating the associated actuator, filtering said universe of financial instruments to provide a filter output; and

(cd) presenting an associated actuator for each of said filter conditions for selective actuation by a user displaying on said viewing screen a modified histogram based on said filter output.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the filter condition and associated actuator of each display element is presented in close proximity thereto to the associated display element.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein said filter condition is a parameter limiter.

45-46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently amended) A method of searching a plurality of financial instruments with a computer that includes a processor, a memory, a viewing screen and a computer input device, said method comprising:

configuring said computer based on a search procedure to perform steps comprising:

(a) ~~presenting~~ displaying on said viewing screen a plurality of filter parameters for selection by a user;

(b) in response to a selection by a user of one or more of said filter parameters for a first filter pass, filtering said plurality of financial instruments based on said selection to provide a filtered output;

~~(bc) based on a selection of one or more of said filter parameters defining a first filter pass, presenting~~ displaying concurrently with said filter parameters a preview of a result of said first filter pass based on said filtered output;

(ed) performing said first filter pass in response to a user command given after said preview is presented to said user; and

(de) repeating steps (b), (c) and (ed) for at least a second filter pass.

48-49. (Canceled)

50. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the population chart for the i^{th} filter pass differs from the population chart for the $i^{\text{th}} - 1$ filter pass;

51. (New) The memory media of claim 24, wherein the population chart for the i^{th} filter pass differs from the population chart for the $i^{\text{th}} - 1$ filter pass;